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LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on Guinea-Bissau issued on 26 February 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of
Germany to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Guinea-Bissau issued on 26 February 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the fact that the Government of National Unity has taken office. This constitutes an important step towards the implementation of the peace process in Guinea-Bissau and a great achievement in the mediation efforts by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) under its current chairman.

The European Union hopes that the new Government will fully commit itself to the tasks of national reconciliation and consolidation of the peace process in order to promote the reconstruction and development of the country. In this context, the European Union attaches great importance to the preparation of the electoral process leading to general and presidential elections, in conformity with the Abuja Agreement.

The European Union calls upon the parties to fulfil their obligations and cooperate closely with the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) forces in order that they may accomplish their mandate and restore confidence in the country. In this regard, the European Union underlines the importance of the withdrawal of foreign troops simultaneously with the deployment of ECOMOG contingents (in accordance with point 2 of the Abuja Agreement) and the necessity of international support for the ECOMOG mission.

The European Union welcomes the commitment of the parties to reopen the airport and the port of Bissau, which is essential for the more effective supply of the humanitarian aid that the European Union is willing to continue to provide.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the countries of the European Free Trade Association members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.